

# Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall  
Wednesday 10 January 2007

Present: Councillor Taylor                      Councillor Sewell  
          Councillor Hubbard                  Councillor Cutting  
          Councillor North                    Councillor Jackson  
          Sharon Milne (clerk)

Also present: 5 parishioners

## 1. **Chairman's remarks**

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked those present for attending. The Chairman asked those in attendance whether there was anything in particular that they wished to raise and the following subject was mentioned:

- a) Mr Derry asked whether the Parish Council had heard anymore from Arena UK about altering the entrance to their centre on Gonerby Lane. No more had been heard. The clerk will write to the owner for an update on his intentions. **(Action point: clerk)**

## 2. **Apologies**

2.1 Councillor McKinlay sent her apologies. Councillors McKinlay is away.

## 3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

## 4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 November 2006**

4.1 The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## 5 **Matters Arising**

5.1 Cllr Cutting stated that footpath number 3 had been marked out again (minute 5.3 refers). The clerk reported that she had contacted LCC regarding the procedure for diverting footpaths. It is the responsibility of the land owner to ask for a footpath to be diverted and the costs involved are about £2,000. A land owner can agree for an alternative route to be used around his land, but he would still be responsible for keeping the official path clear.

- 5.2 The library van is back to a fortnightly service (minute 5.7 refers).
- 5.3 The clerk updated the Council on the matter of the insurance claim for the demolished bus shelter (minute 7.1). Two quotes had been sent to Direct Line, the motorist's insurance company, as requested and a cheque had been received to cover the cost of clearing the debris. An insurance inspector is now due to look at the site before any further payments are made. Also, SKDC have advised that planning permission will be needed for replacement of the shelter regardless as to whether it is identical or not.
- 5.4 Councillors asked whether a reply had been received from the occupants of 10 Park Avenue regarding the encroachment of their back garden into the public area (minute 12.2). No response has been received. The clerk will write again asking for their intentions. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 5.5 A letter should go to the Hempstead's thanking them for the excellent job they have done clearing the Park Avenue public area of low branches and brambles. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 5.6 The Welby Quiz has kindly agreed to buy a bench for the Playing Field so the clerk has looked at various low maintenance benches (minute 15.2 refers). A brochure will be put in the correspondence box for Councillors to make a decision as to which bench to order. **(Action point: clerk)**

## 6. Correspondence received since the meeting held on 8 November 2006

- 6.1 The clerk reported on some of the correspondence received and sent:
- a) Letter from Central networks. The bid for Christmas lights was unsuccessful.
  - b) Letter, 23/11/06, clerk to Mr & Mrs Hemsall re: encroachment of back garden
  - c) Letter, 11/12/06, clerk to Direct Line re: quotes for bus shelter replacement
  - d) Letter 24/11/06 and response re: salting Sedgebrook Road
  - e) Letter, 7/12/06, from clerk to Long Bennington PC re: cluster meeting on 21/2/07 (see minute 10)
  - f) Letter from SKDC re: Play leadership scheme 2007
  - g) Rural North Local Forum Agenda for 24/1/07.
  - h) Workshop 28/2/07: NHS Shaping Local Health Services
  - i) Mobile police unit will be in the village on 25/1/07

This and all other correspondence will be circulated to Councillors in the box as usual.

- 6.2 It was agreed that Cllrs Cutting and North and the clerk would attend the cluster meeting in Long Bennington on 27 February. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 6.3 Cllrs Cutting and North would also attend the Rural North Local Forum on 24 January.

## **7 Feedback on the Parish and Town Councils Conference**

- 7.1 Cllrs Taylor and Cutting attended the Parish and Town Councils Conference on 7 December. Cllr Taylor said that conference was useful and informative. They heard from various speakers on subject such as waste, health provision, planning and IT.
- 7.2 Despite rumours in the media it appears that decisions have not been made regarding the future of Grantham Hospital.
- 7.3 The Planning department in their workshop had admitted that their service was not always as good as it could have been and they are taking steps to rectify this.
- 7.4 Village websites, hosted by Grantham-online, were not considered to be the best. Information would be forwarded to the clerk about the County Council's IT package.

## **8 Village Caretaker**

- 8.1 There has been no response to the adverts asking for a new village caretaker. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to increase the hours for the job from 4 hours a week to 8 – this may prove a more attractive offer for someone. The salary is to remain at £5.50 an hour.
- 8.2 The job description for the Caretaker's post needs reviewing and some specific Playing Field duties need to be added. Dog mess is still a big problem on the field despite signs asking owners to clear up after their dog. Monitoring and cleaning the field would be one of the specific duties of the Caretaker's role. **(Action point: clerk and PFC councillors)**
- 8.3 Further to the dog mess problem it was proposed that a flyer be posted to all households in the village reminding dog owners to exercise their dog along the edge of the field only and not allowing them onto the open area or the children's play area. It was resolved by 5 votes to 1 that the flyer should be distributed. **(Action point: clerk and PFC councillors)**
- 8.4 After discussion it was agreed to approach other caretaker's in neighbouring villages to ask whether they wished to increase their hours and work a further 8 hours in Allington. **(Action point: clerk)**

## **9 Free trees for the Playing Field**

- 9.1 Councillor Taylor reported that Dan Cragg had very kindly agreed to plant the 5 new trees at the Playing Field.

## **10 Cluster Meeting – Long Bennington Parish Council**

- 10.1 Long Bennington Parish Council has invited all Allington Councillors and the clerk to a 'cluster' meeting on 27 February. The meeting is to encourage networking between local Parish Council and Village Meeting groups to try and

address issues which are of concern to all. Eight other Parish Councils have also been invited. Cllrs Cutting, North and the clerk agreed to attend.

## 11 Planning matters

11.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish council meeting on 8 November 06:

- a) Application - Erection dwelling and triple garage, Land adjacent to Wellington House, Bottom Street
- b) Approval – Erection of 2 dwellings and garage, plot 10 & 11 Bert's Way
- c) Approval – Change of use of dog grooming parlour to garage, Cherry Tree Cottage, Bottesford Road

11.2 No reply had been received from the occupants of 10 Park Avenue regarding the encroachment of their back garden into the public area. The clerk will write again asking for their intentions. **(Action point: clerk)**

## 12 Financial matters

12.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 8 November 06.

12.2 The income since the last meeting has been:

- £12.04 - Bank interest
- £21 - Hire of field from Archery club
- £200 - Refund of float for bonfire event
- £1528.25 - income from PFC events
- £436.50 - Hire of field from GYFC
- £352.50 - Reimbursement from Direct Line to clear the bus shelter debris
- £221.82 - Donation for Tuffé sign from Twinning Association

**Total £ 2772.11**

The expenditure has been:

- £352.50 - Clearance of bus shelter debris
- £1.53 - British Gas electricity
- £2.88 - Final payment to Powergen
- £221.82 - Payment for Twinned with Tuffé sign
- £264.38 - Hempstead's clearing Park Ave public area

**Total £ 843.11**

Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

12.3 Following discussions at the November Parish Council meeting the clerk presented a further draft of the budget for 2007/08. The clerk also provided information as to how the precept would impact on Allington householders in bands A-H. Councillors thanked the clerk for this work.

**12.4** It was decided unanimously to set the precept at £13,000. The increase was deemed necessary to cover Parish Council election costs, repairs and maintenance of the play equipment, help towards refurbishment costs of the Village Hall and additional salary for the Caretaker's post.

**13 Report form the Playing Field Committee.**

**13.1** Cllr Sewell reported back from the last Playing Field Committee meeting.

**13.2** A letter had been received from a resident living close to the Playing Field about the parking of cars and the inadequacy of the car park. It was noted that 35 cars had been parked on the verges during the time that the footballers were using the field at the weekend. Quotes were being sought by Playing Field committee members in order to calculate what sum is needed to increase the size of the car park.

**13.3** The Playing Field committee had prioritised the development of the field in the order:

- Extension of the car park
- Urgent maintenance
- A multi-sports surface facility

**14 Any other business**

**14.1** Cllr North said that the village diary was defunct. Other than the Village Hall no other group had used it.

**14.2** With the absence of the Parish Council notice board it was agreed to allow Mr Bosworth to erect a temporary structure for notices on The Green.

**14.3** It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be the last meeting of the current Council members as there is an election due in May.

**15 Date of next meeting**

**15.1** The next Parish Council meeting will be on 14 March 07.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed: ----- (Chairman). Date: -----