

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 11 January 2012

Present: Councillor Bosworth Councillor Jackson
Councillor Taylor Councillor Cragg
Councillor McKinlay Councillor Hubbard
Councillor Cant Sharon Milne (clerk)

Also present: Mr & Mrs Bill – Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators
Cllr Mackay – Sedgebrook Parish Council
Cllr Bowyer – Sedgebrook Parish Council
Theresa Tanner – Chairman VHMC
1 villager

1. Chairman's remarks

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. Prior to the formal Parish Council meeting there was a public session for villagers to raise issues. The following points were raised:

- a) Mrs Tanner said the work on the village hall car park has been completed and she wished to thank the Parish Council for its help and funding towards the project.
- b) She also wished to point out that the village hall was now without a caretaker and the management committee wished to recruit someone to the post soon. Also the Chairman and Treasurer would be standing down at the AGM in May and these roles also need filling.

2. Apologies

2.1 All Parish Councillors were present.

2.2 *Post meeting: District Councillor Kaberry-Brown sent belated apologies. She was unable to attend as she is unable to drive, following surgery.*

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 Cllr Taylor declared an interest in the planning application for 1 Bottom Street as she resides in the neighbouring property.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2011

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

5 Correspondence received since the meeting held on 9 November 2011

5.1 The clerk reported on some of the correspondence received and sent:

- a) Email from Ben Wills (Brown & Co) re: village paddock
- b) Quote for portacabin repair (see minute 11.3)
- c) Email requesting a meeting re: 1 Bottom St (see minute 12.2)
- d) Hempstead quote for 2012 grass cutting season (see minute 13.4)
- e) Email update from History Society re: PoW enquiries
- f) Email from Chandlers Oil & Gas re: oil buying groups
- g) Letter re: Improvements in engaging with Parish Councils and local communities
- h) Letter re: Self Help and Mutual aid in severe weather (snow)
- i) Changes to Mobile Library Stops
- j) Temporary Road Closure – Sedgebrook Road (20/2/12 – 2/3/12)

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

6 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Helen Bill

6.1 Helen Bill and her husband attended the meeting to give details of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and how it could be resurrected in the village.

6.2 Helen Bill gave an interesting and informative talk about the scheme. She said that prior to the meeting she had contacted a number of the people that were part of the village's scheme some years back and some of these had expressed an interest in setting the scheme up again. As a result of this renewed contact a group of villagers would be having a meeting – the clerk would be informed as to when this meeting would go ahead and Councillors would be welcome to attend.

6.3 She also gave brief details of 'Police alert' an online two way communication system designed to put the public in touch with Lincolnshire Police and Neighbourhood Watch. Anyone can join this alert system and get email messages from the police detailing incidents in the locality.

6.4 The clerk was given a Neighbourhood Watch poster for displaying in the village. Helen Bill also stated that she would be happy to attend any village fêtes or gatherings to promote the scheme.

7 Sedgebrook Road gritting

7.1 Two Councillors from Sedgebrook attended the meeting to share the information they had received from LCC Highways as to why the road would not be gritted and to discuss the cost of funding it independently.

7.2 It was apparent that Sedgebrook Parish Council had received the same reasons for not gritting the road in winter conditions ie cost, it's not a priority road, and the gritters cannot get under the bridge.

7.3 After a lengthy discussion and a very thorough breakdown of costings from the Sedgebrook Councillors it was concluded that was the best way forward to try and get the road gritted was continued lobbying from both Parish Councils. Although discussed as an option, hiring a private firm to grit the road would be expensive for the parishes and if the villages paid for this service then it was likely that this arrangement would be expected year after year by both the public and the Highways division.

8 Village paddock

8.1 The clerk reported that Ben Wills (Brown & Co agent) had stated in an email dated 18/11/11 that a decision has not been made as to whether the field will be sold or not. It was suggested that the clerk contact Ben Will to say that the Parish Council has expressed an interest in purchasing the paddock should the owners consider its sale. **(Action point: clerk)**

9 Memorial in the village

9.1 There was further discussion following the agenda item on Memorials at the November Parish Council meeting. After various suggestions it was decided that perhaps an ornate sign on the Green pointing to the Village Hall would be a good suggestion. Cllr Bosworth would feed this suggestion back to the friends of the late Maurice and Irene Leeming. **(Action point: AB)**

10 Signposts in the village

11.1 Cllr Taylor thought that it would be a good idea to have a 'finger' signpost for village amenities ie the pub, the shop and the playing field. It was thought that the sign could be placed on the corner of Main Street and Bottom Street. How this would be funded would be for further discussion.

11 Playing field matters

11.1 Cllr McKinlay stated that the Playing Field Committee had met recently and she referred councillors to the minutes of that meeting that had been circulated.

11.2 The rabbits at the field had been culled by gassing – without the use of chemicals. The holes have subsequently been filled by Hempsteads. It was acknowledged that this is only a short term solution to the problem and the rabbits will inevitably return again in number. It was noted that many rabbits are burrowing at the builder's yard at the far end of the field. The owner of the yard would be asked if his yard could be accessed to deal with the rabbits there. **(Action point: clerk)**

11.3 The clerk reported that, so far, she had received one quote to repair the portacabins though further quotes are expected from contacts within GYFC. The clerk will keep Councillors informed of further quotes by email and a decision will be made early next month. **(Action point: clerk)**

12 Planning matters

12.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 9 November 2011:

- SKDC Committee hearing refusal – 1 Bottom Street, demolition of property and construction of 5 dwellings.
- Application – Chestnut Farm, Bottom Street, change of use of redundant agricultural buildings to live-work accommodation and creation of business units
- Approval – Woodnook, Side Street, pruning and lowering of crowns to 3 sycamore trees

12.2 Councillors agreed that the Planning Advisory Consultation Group would meet the representative of the owner of the plot 1 Bottom Street to listen to his views and ideas on the development of the plot. The clerk would arrange the meeting. **(Action point: clerk)**

12.3 The clerk reported that she'd made enquiries with SKDC to ask about planning requirements for a demolition. The demolition of a building requires an application of 'Prior Notification' this ensures that the LA has some control over the means of demolition. If demolition takes place before the Prior Notification process then retrospective full permission has to be sought. If demolition takes place with no application for a new property to be built then a subsequent application for a property could be problematic as there will be no dwelling to replace 1 for 1.

13 Financial matters

13.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 9 November 2011:

Income

- Bank interest - £3.36
- Bonfire night profit - £1294.55
- Petal raffle - £60.00
- AGRA donations for LIVES - £710.00

Total £ 2067.91

Expenditure

- May 2011 election costs - £783.15
- Hempstead (MUGA maintenance) - £126
- British Gas (electricity) - £28.64
- Jewsons (Padlock for bollards) - £45.48
- Christmas tree - £160.00

Total £ 1143.27

Plus Clerk and Caretakers' salaries.

13.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

13.3 The clerk referred to the proposed budget for 2012/13 which she'd emailed to all councillors. After a brief discussion the budget was agreed and accordingly a precept request of £15k would be sought from SKDC. It was noted that the precept request by the Parish Council had remained at this amount for the past 5 years.
(Action point: clerk)

13.4 The quote from PE Hempstead & Sons was accepted for the 2012 grass cutting season. **(Action point: clerk)**

14 Any other business for future meetings

14.1 The agenda for the next Parish Council meeting will include:

- a) Village Plan analysis
- b) The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee celebration weekend
- c) The Annual Parish meeting scheduled for Wednesday 11 April.

15 Date of next meeting

15.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 14 March 2012 at 7.30pm.

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