

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 8 January 2014

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

Also present: District Councillor Rosemary Kaberry-Brown
 5 Villagers

1. **Chairman's remarks**

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. Villagers were asked whether there was anything specific that they wished to raise:

a) Mr Harrison wished to propose an annual Well Dressing and Blessing Festival at the Salt Well. He said that it would be an opportunity to bring the village together and involve the various village groups, societies and possibly school. It was suggested that he liaise with the playing field committee in the first instance.

b) Mrs Mole reported back regarding the History Society archiving some old village documents. The oldest documents, some dating back to the 16th Century have now been digitised and the originals are now stored safely at the Lincoln Archive. She also explained that she has been liaising with John Slater and hopes to soon be able to put some documents on the village website. She also plans to hold meetings to encourage villagers to bring more photographs and memorabilia from the village to capture more village history.

2. **Apologies**

2.1 Cllr Taylor sent her apologies she was not well enough to attend following surgery.

2.2 County Councillor Paul Wood also sent his apologies as did Theresa Tanner, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the AGM held on 13 November 2013**

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

5. **Correspondence received since the meeting held on 13 November 13**

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

- a) Email and response from Mr Harrison re: Salt Well dressing
- b) Correspondence from Richard Withington re: state of Bottesford Road
- c) Email from Joy Hart re: Mud on highway
- d) Responses from Stephen Padley re: removal of chicken waste
- e) Letter from Dragonfly Film and TV Productions Ltd re: complaints with utility companies
- f) Email and information from Your Shout re: Proposed windfarm at Temple Hill
- g) Letter re: Precept requirement
- h) Survey re: Speed Management Review Task and Finish group
- i) Email from NALC re; Council Tax Benefit Support Grant

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

6 Representations made to the Parish Council since the agenda has been set

6.1 No issues had been raised from villagers since the agenda was set:

7 Objectives for the forthcoming year

7.1 The clerk reminded everyone of the objectives for this year:

- a) To make safe the pavement from the property South Lodge to the church
- b) To create a list of poor road conditions within the village in order to keep Highways updated on roads and paths that need attention
- c) To liaise with Allington News to try and get the Call Connect bus service better advertised.

The clerk and Councillors are actioning these points.

8 Centenary memorial of WWI

- 8.1 The clerk reported back on the idea to sow poppy seeds on the verges leading to the village to commemorate the centenary of WWI and the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings.
- 8.2 The British Legion has a poppy campaign running for this year. The Legion says that it wants to see members of the public making this campaign their own in their local communities, working in collaboration with local government, schools and community groups.
- 8.3 However, guidance from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) states that that poppy seeds should not be used near agricultural areas or sites of scientific interest. They are for use on an individuals' own land only.
- 8.4 The Parish Council therefore felt that it could not instigate the sewing of poppy seeds on the verges bearing in mind DEFRA's guidance, but it was thought that individuals from around the village may wish to grow poppies on their own land. It was also suggested that individuals could grow pots and/or troughs to display in the village.

9 Christmas tree festival feedback

9.1 It was agreed that the Christmas tree festival organised by Holy Trinity Church had been very successful. The festival had raised £986 for church funds. Thanks go to those that supplied and decorated the Parish Council's tree.

10 Sewstern Lane railway crossing

- 10.1 The clerk explained that Network Rail need to upgrade signals along the railway line and are looking to down grade the level crossing on Sewstern Lane from a 'public highway' to a private road, either with or without a bridleway. Ownership of the land would go to the adjoining farmland. Accordingly, Network Rail is seeking views from landowners, Parish Councils and Western Power.
- 10.2 Network Rail state that they are considering putting in a lockable gate to prohibit vehicles but details like who would be key holders and who would have responsibility of the gate's maintenance are still to be considered.
- 10.3 Parish Councillors are not in favour of this proposal as the level crossing is on the Viking Way. Parish Councillors strongly believe that this ancient byway should remain public and not have private ownership. This unique byway, which dates back many centuries, is part of the heritage of the area and must remain public.
- 10.4 The clerk would inform Network Rail of the Parish Council's views. **(Action point: clerk)**

11 Parish Council noticeboard

- 11.1 The Parish Council noticeboard has become a victim of the recent bad weather and the doors have been torn off in the high winds. It was agreed that the damage was irreparable and a new noticeboard was required. Cllr Bosworth and the clerk would look at what noticeboards are available on the market and inform councillors of their findings. **(Action point: AB & clerk)**

12 Bus services

- 12.1 Cllr Hubbard raised the issue of the poor bus service in the village. He is aware of several residents from Allington Gardens that have left the village in recent times as they had become reliant on public transport and they had reluctantly decided to move away from the village as the bus service is inadequate for their needs.
- 12.2 It was agreed that the clerk would write again to the bus companies to ask whether there was any chance that their routes could incorporate Allington village. There is a bus that travels from Bottesford to Grantham and it would be helpful if this could deviate from its route to stop at Allington. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 12.3 It was acknowledged that Call Connect and Dial a Ride were available options but these were not always feasible.

13 Highway matters

- 13.1 The clerk reported that she had received complaints about mud on the roads. This is not an issue that the Highways division has any power over and the advice is that if it causing a danger the police should be informed. The clerk confirmed that she had contacted the local PCSO about the matter.
- 13.2 Despite the weight restrictions which apply to vehicles travelling through the village a number of lorries are still accessing Sedgebrook Road unaware that there is a low bridge under the railway line, and they have difficulty in turning. It was thought that if the 'low bridge' warning sign notified drivers as they come off of the A1 some of these

incidents may be avoided. The clerk would contact Highways to see if it is possible to get a sign installed at the A1 exit. **(Action point: clerk)**

- 13.3 The clerk informed Councillors about electronic reactive speed signs which flash to encourage speeding traffic to slow down.
- 13.4 Presently there are no funds available from Lincolnshire County Council for these signs so any sign would have to be self-funded. There are two options with these type of signs:
- a) a self-standing sign which would be installed on its own post. These signs cost £8k plus a one-off fee to LCC of £1500 for its upkeep,
or
 - b) a sign without a post which is installed at an already established LCC electricity supply (ie a LCC maintained lamp post). These signs cost £3k with the additional fee to LCC for £1500 for upkeep.

It should be noted that the lamp posts in Allington village are not LCC maintained, they are maintained by the District Council.

- 13.5 The Highways official advised that these signs are ideal for villages that have a long straight road which goes through the centre of the village. Placing signs in this village would be difficult.
- 13.6 After a short discussion it was concluded that reactive signs were not really an option for Allington based on expense and practicability.

14 Playing field matters

- 14.1 Cllr McKinlay reported back from the recent Playing field advisory group meeting.
- 14.2 There was a good article in the Allington News informing villagers of the new trim trails at the field. The trails seem to be very popular with children.
- 14.3 The entrance to the children's play area has become very muddy and the ground has sunk again. The clerk would ask Hempsteads to redo the entrance. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 14.4 The Nature area proposed for the copse at the end of the field has been delayed as the licence is still with the landowner. The clerk, and the Agent, have been unable to contact him recently. The clerk will continue to try and contact the landowner and get the licence returned.
- 14.5 The fundraising group are now planning the Easter Egg hunt and looking towards getting a band hired for the summer Party in the Park. No date has been set for this event yet.

15 Planning matters

- 15.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 13 November 2013:
- Appeal – Berberene, Main Street – construction detached double garage
 - Approval – The Orchard, Lowfields Lane – Erection of porch to front of dwelling
 - Application – Woodbine Cottage, Side Street - Works to Chestnut, Ash, Oak and Walnut trees
 - Application – The Mullions, The Green - Erection of two storey extension

- 15.2 It has been noted that there has been an 'application for removal of conditions' for the property approved for 1 Bottom Street. These type of applications are not sent through to the Parish Council, they are dealt with by the planning officer. This anomaly in planning application procedure is not helpful as the change to the condition can sometime have a big effect to the look of the property. The clerk would send the details through to District Councillor Kaberry-Brown. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 15.3 The enforcement officer had informed the clerk that the container which has been in the front garden of a property in Park Avenue should be removed soon.

16 Financial matters

- 16.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 13 November 2013

Income

- Bank interest – £2.32
- Christmas tree lighting - £70.00
- 'Petal' raffle - £72.00

Total £ 144.32

Expenditure

- PE Hempstead (MUGA) - £129.98
- Bonfire event licence - £21.00
- Wicksteed Trim trails payment - £24,804.00
- Village Christmas tree - £300.00

Total £ 25,254.98

Plus Clerk and Caretaker's salaries

- 16.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.
- 16.3 The Council also unanimously approved an end of year bonus to the clerk which was gratefully received.
- 16.4 The clerk presented the 2014/15 budget. It was agreed unanimously that a precept request of £15k should be requested from SKDC. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 16.5 This is the second year of calculating the precept following the introduction of the Localised Council Tax support scheme (LCTS). This scheme reduces the council tax base in the village by removing those resident who receive this support. This has an impact on the Council tax charge as there will be less average Band D properties to levy the charge upon. Again this year there will be a grant to meet this shortfall but it is likely to be the last year this shortfall will be met.

17 Any other business for future meetings

- 17.1 The agenda for the next Parish Council meeting will include:
- a) Village clean up – it was considered that another village clean-up is necessary before the Springtime.

b) Annual Parish Meeting – the date for this meeting is 9th April

18 Date of next meeting

18.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 12 March 2014 at 7.30pm.

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