

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 14 January 2015

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

Also present: County Councillor Paul Wood
 Theresa Tanner – Chairman, VHMC
 Sharon Andres – LIVES Responders
 5 Villagers

1. **Chairman's remarks**

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. Attendees spoke about the following:

- a) Theresa Tanner thanked County Councillor Wood for his help in liaising with the Highways department as one of the long standing potholes in Gonerby Lane had been repaired. However, it was noted that despite this the repair appears to be breaking up already. County Councillor Wood said that he would inform Highways of this new damage.
- b) County Councillor Wood reported that the County Council's funding had been cut from £124m to £93m for 2015/16. Members of the public are being encouraged to comment on the consultation exercise to consider the priority services and get views as to how the budget should be spent. Cllr Cant suggested that a link for this consultation be put on the village website. County Councillor Wood would write a piece and made this available.

2. **Apologies**

2.1 Cllr Cragg sent his apologies. He had another commitment.

2.2 District Councillor Kaberry-Brown sent her apologies.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2014**

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

5 Correspondence received since the meeting held on 12 November 14

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

- a) Email advice from LCC re: self-help in snowy weather
- b) Comments from GYFC re: white line markings at the field
- c) SKDC precept information
- d) Email from LCC re: poor state of the entrance to the playing field
- e) Village Cross information, received by Cllr Bosworth

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

5.2 The self-help in snowy weather advice has been posted on the noticeboard.

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

6.1 There were no representations made to the Council after the agenda had been set.

7 Objectives for the forthcoming year

7.1 Work is underway on the two objectives set for the forthcoming year:

- a) To renovate and improve the condition of the village cross
- b) To further develop the Community Wood,

7.2 These two projects are ongoing. New objectives will be set in the new financial year following consultation with villagers at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

8 LIVES Responders

8.1 Sharon Andrews updated Councillors about the LIVES Responders group. Callouts are far fewer than when the group started as the East Midlands Ambulance Service now has far more Level 4 paramedics on the road who are able respond to incidents quicker.

8.2 Sharon Andrews stated that Allington LIVES Responders still have a sum of money ringfenced in the Parish Council's account and she proposed, on behalf of the Allington LIVES committee, that some of these funds be used by the Parish Council to provide a fixed point defibrillator for installation at the Village Hall. This would ensure that in the event of an incident occurring when no LIVES Responder was on call this defibrillator could be used. Theresa Tanner, Chairman of the VHMC agreed that a defibrillator could be sited at the Village Hall.

8.3 LIVES Responder would maintain the defibrillator and provide training for its use to a number of volunteers each year. It was decided unanimously that the Parish Council would purchase a fixed point defibrillator from the ringfenced funds. Sharon Andrews would liaise with the clerk about purchase and installation. **(Action point: clerk)**

9 Standing Orders and Media Policy

9.1 Councillors unanimously agreed the revised Standing Orders and Media Policy that the clerk had circulated. The change in Standing Orders reflected the recent change in law regarding recording of public meetings.

10 Parish Council Elections – May 2015

- 10.1 Cllr Taylor stated that she had written an article for inclusion in Allington News' next edition explaining that there would be a Parish Council election in May and encouraging villagers to consider standing.
- 10.2 Once nominations have been received it was agreed that details of those standing, with photographs, would be placed on the Parish Council noticeboard.
- 10.3 Parish Council election will be an item on the agenda of the March Parish Council meeting. **(Action point: clerk)**

11 Village Cross

- 11.1 Cllr Bosworth stated that he had finally received the report from Skillington Workshop about the state of the cross. Cllrs had been sent a copy of this report. According to the report the suggested works for the cross' renovation will cost around £18,000. Before a decision is made on this matter English Heritage has to be consulted on the report. Cllr Bosworth would keep the Parish Council updated. **(Action point: AB)**

12 Village Shop

- 12.1 Cllr Taylor confirmed that the village shop and adjoining residential property would be placed on the market. She stated that she had been informed that if the vendors received no interest in the shop being purchased with the adjoining house they would sell the whole property as residential premises only. This would mean that the village would lose the shop.
- 12.2 Cllr Taylor stated that the loss of a village shop would be detrimental to the village. She felt very strongly that there should be a contingency plan in place should the shop be sold as a residential property. After discussion it was proposed that a village group should be regenerated to look at the Action Plan which came from the Village Plan. This group could then see what viable options there are to retain a shop. It was also decided that this matter would be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting and kept on the Parish Council's agenda for future meeting. **(Action point: clerk)**

13 Village Hall

- 13.1 Cllrs Hubbard and Jackson reported back on a meeting that they had had with the Executive members of the Village Hall Management Committee. At that meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council would help support the Village Hall financially by increasing its precept bid. In 2014/15 the Village Hall received a grant of £1,000 from the Parish Council towards keeping the letting fees low and a further £500 on a glazing grant, next year, 2015/16 it was suggested that the Parish Council increase this grant to £2,000. A further sum would be also be kept ringfenced in the Parish Council's account and used for capital expenditure necessary at the Village Hall.
- 13.2 It was also agreed that a Parish Councillor attend the Village Hall committee meetings quarterly. The amounts earmarked for the VHMC would be reviewed annually. **(Action point: clerk)**

13.3 There was debate about whether the Parish Council Chairman should become a trustee of the Village Hall. Theresa Tanner would take advice on the matter and inform the Parish Council of the information she receives. **(Action point: VHMC Chairman)**

14 Highway matters

14.1 Cllr Taylor was pleased to report that potholes in Bottom Street had been repaired. It was also noted that some of Gonerby Lane's potholes had been filled. (As reported at item 1.1 (a)).

15 Playing field matters

15.1 Cllr McKinlay reported back from the recent Playing Field Advisory Group meeting. She stated that John Slater was looking into the events licencing requirements. Over the years the number of people attending the Party in the Park and Bonfire Night events has grown. The Events Licence for these events limits the number of people, at any one time on the field, to 499. John would report back to the Advisory Group.

15.2 The clerk reported that she had been in contact with GYFC about the white lines on the pitch which have damaged the ground. The GYFC Managers state that the damage was caused by a men's team that used the pitch in the summer for their friendlies. They apparently burned the lines in and they have then been used as a guide when marking it out. As a FA Charter Standard Club GYFC is fully aware of its responsibilities regards what can be used to mark pitches out and only use proper line marking chalk which is bought from a trade supplier. It was therefore decided that GYFC could continue marking the pitch and the Parish Council would not take on the responsibility for it. The clerk would inform GYFC and the Hempsteads that the white lining arrangements should remain unaltered. **(Action point: clerk)**

15.3 The Christmas tree, as usual, looked lovely. The money raised at its lighting would be forwarded to the clerk.

15.4 Cllr Cragg had received quotes for materials and labour for a boundary fence to the rear of the community wood. He would report the details of this quote at a future meeting. **(Action point: DC)**

15.5 There are two oaks in the community wood which need tidying up. The clerk would approach a tree surgeon for an estimate for this work. **(Action point: clerk)**

15.6 The playing field hedges are in need of a cut back. The clerk would ask Hempsteads to see whether they could do this. **(Action point: clerk)**

15 Planning matters

15.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 12 November 2014:

- Approval – Corner House, The Green – Fell two Yew trees

16 Financial matters

16.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 12 November 2014:

Income

Bank interest – £3.24
Quiz night profit - £453
Bonfire night profit - £2774.32
Petal donation - £40
Lark in the Park donation - £40

Total £3310.74

Outgoings

Opus energy – £36.46
P E Hempstead - £248.97
LIVES donation - £150
Christmas tree - £200
Village Hall donation - £200
HMRC – 139.20

Total £974.63

Plus Clerk and Caretaker's salaries

16.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

16.3 Councillors considered the proposed budget for 2015/16 that the clerk had circulated. After discussion it was agreed unanimously to request a precept of £18k in order to help support the village hall, as detailed at minute 13.1. This is an increase of £3k – the first increase in precept for 7 years. The clerk would inform SKDC of this figure by the deadline. **(Action point: clerk)**

17 Any other business for future meetings

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

- a) Village Cross
- b) Village Hall matters
- c) Parish Council Election – May 2015
- d) Village Shop
- e) Community shelter
- f) The Annual Parish Meeting – 8 April 2015

18 Date of next meeting

18.1 The next meeting will be:

- Wednesday 11 March 2015 at 7.30pm

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