

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 9 March 2005

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

Also present: 13 parishioners.

It was proposed and agreed, that there would be an open forum session for parishioners, before formally opening the Parish Council meeting. The following issues were raised:

- 1) Objections were raised concerning the planning application to erect a dwelling at The Gables, Side Street. A letter from a neighbour, detailing concerns, was left with the clerk for the Councillors' information.
- 2) Following SKDC Planning Department's decision to dismiss the appeal for planning permission at Vine Cottage, councillors were informed that two new proposals have been re-submitted for consideration. These new submissions address the access difficulties that the Planning Department highlighted in their reasons for rejecting the initial plans.
- 3) Water is not draining away on the Sedgebrook Road opposite Buttonhole Cottage. It was requested that the Highways Division arrange for grips to be dug to alleviate this problem. Grips have been successful in the past.
- 4) It was reported that the heads of the street lights in Park Road need a clean, and that the one at the end of the jitty, near Lofty Trees, was no longer working. A Parishioner stated that he considered that an additional light mid-way down the Park Road jitty would be beneficial. However, it was pointed out that the Parish would have to find half the costs if another lamp was requested and it would be in the region of £330.
- 5) A number of parishioners spoke at length about their concerns at the recent application for a Goods Vehicle Operators Licence for Jackson's of Allington. Their concerns were regarding the nature of the work that would be undertaken from the old nurseries site, and the impact it would have on the village, roads and the environment generally. Although reassured that it would be a very rare occasion that a traction unit would be at the Nurseries there were still strong concerns, from some Parishioners, as to what the granting of this licence could potentially lead to.

The Chairman closed the public session and the meeting of the Parish Council was opened at 9.00pm.

1. **Chairman's remarks**
 - 1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked members of the public for their attendance.
2. **Apologies**
 - 2.1 Cllr McKinlay sent her apologies. She had a pre-arranged engagement.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
 - 3.1 Cllr Jackson declared an interest in matters relating to the application, under Traffic Commissioners regulations, for an operators licence for Jackson's of Allington.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 January 2005**
 - 4.1 The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters Arising**
 - 5.1 The clerk reported that a letter of objection was sent to BT following the last Parish Council meeting (minute 6.6). The response was disappointing. It appears that they are entitled to site their apparatus in 'public maintained highway', and that the pole was necessary to provide the new safety height clearances. They would not consider burying cables on financial grounds. A letter of explanation was sent to the resident of The White House. However, it has subsequently materialised that Marconi (subcontracted by BT) now intend to remove the pole completely and install a taller pole in the existing site opposite.
 - 5.2 Following correspondence from the Chairman of Allington Gardens Residents' Association (minute 6.2) about speeding traffic on Sedgebrook Road, and councillors general concerns about road safety on all roads in the village, a site meeting was held with a representative of Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership. The main points that materialised from the meeting were:
 - the 30mph signs should be re-sited beyond the Peach Lane turning, to cover the length of the road lit by SKDC lamp posts;
 - traffic calming measures, for example countdown markers, speed signs, etc. could be introduced to the village. However, the Parish would need to contribute half of the costs of any measures introduced;
 - a traffic survey would be done on Sedgebrook Road to record volumes and speeds of passing traffic;
 - Highways Division should be asked to clean the road signs.
 - 5.3 Regarding the council housing in Allington (minute 8.2) it is likely that a tenants association will take over the council housing in the village.

6. **Correspondence received since the Parish Council meeting on 12 January 2005.**

6.1 The Council has received correspondence on various subjects:

Bus services / Public transport

6.2 A response has been received from Douglas Hogg MP asking to be kept informed about the bus service and asking whether the Parish Council need his further intervention.

6.3 A letter from LCC outlining new bus times. Notices have been placed on the PC notice board, at the Post Office and on Allington Gardens' noticeboards.

Letters from Parishioners

6.4 A letter has been received from Jackson's of Allington detailing, the reasons and intentions, for applying for a Goods Vehicle Operators Licence. There is also a letter of objection, for this licence, that has been sent by a parishioner to the Traffic Commissioners.

6.5 A letter has been received from a resident of Manor Paddock regarding the state of Bottesford Road after the building developments.

Highways

6.6 Following the last Parish Council meeting letters were sent to the Highways Division regarding:

- a. the kerbing requirements for the small island outside the post office,
- b. a footpath along Peach Lane,
- c. the Gonerby Lane pavement, and
- d. a crash barrier at the beck.

Highways have replied in each case and state:

- a. kerbing will be looked at in the new financial year,
- b. a feasibility and funding study will look at extending the footpath from Sedgebrook Road along the length of Peach Lane,
- c. the footpath in Gonerby Lane is already under consideration and will be looked at in the new financial year,
- d. for engineering reasons the crash barrier cannot be extended but they would look at the problem and see what alternatives there may be.

Miscellaneous correspondence

6.7 Letters of invitation to the Annual Parish meeting have been sent to different groups and societies around Allington.

6.8 Letter confirming that the Village Clean up freighter is booked for 4/6/05, including a list of waste not permitted. Allington News will publish the list in their next edition.

6.9 Notification from Lincolnshire Police that their mobile unit will be in the village on 10 March.

- 6.10 Letter from South Kesteven Crime & Disorder Partnership about a seminar to be held on 22 March 05 about Anti-social behaviour.
- 6.11 Letter from DEFRA outlining new powers for Parish Councils in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill.
- 6.12 Various miscellaneous consultation papers for comments. These will be circulated in the correspondence box shortly.

7 Public Transport in Allington

- 7.1 The new bus service is having a mixed reception. The service is too early for a number of villagers, and Allington Gardens residents are having to walk to the The Green to catch the bus.
- 7.2 Cllr North reported that a letter had been received by the Residents' Association from Translinc, looking at ways to continue a service into Grantham from Allington Gardens, which would be available to all Allington residents. Translinc were prepared to offer a private hire service on Fridays with a 12-seater bus. However, this would mean that fares would have to be collected beforehand and the liability for the journey would lie with the ticket sales. Avondale and the Residents' Association were therefore reluctant to pursue this, on these terms. Bus passes would not be valid with a private hire bus.
- 7.3 Cllr North reported that 55% of Allington Garden residents, that had responded to a survey, had said that they would be prepared to pay up to £4 for a return fare to Grantham.
- 7.4 The Chairman expressed the Council's thanks to Cllr North and the Residents' Association for the work they had done regarding the buses.
- 7.5 Cllr Sewell stated that he had spoken to County Councillor Wheat last month and that Cllr Wheat had assured him that Allington's plea as a special case, (ie Allington Gardens), would be considered. He assured that there would be a workable bus service. A letter should be sent to Cllr Wheat reminding him of the village's public transport difficulties and requirements and asking that he consider re-instating a similar service. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 7.6 SKDC when re-establishing their priorities should be asked to make rural transport a priority.

8 Recycling

- 8.1 The recycling bins are often full and the area around the bins is extremely muddy, littered and causing concern. There is also an increase in traffic along Bottesford Road. It was decided that the question of whether the bins should be kept should be reviewed. Villagers would be asked for their views at the Annual Parish meeting next month, then the Council, at the AGM, would make a full decision. The recycling officer should be made aware of the Council's concerns and possible action **(Action point: HT, clerk)**
- 8.2 In the meantime the SKDC recycling officer has arranged for Allington Gardens to have a 2x1m recycling bin, and a larger bank for the playing field site. The

large bank is currently being labelled and both new bins will be delivered as soon as possible.

- 8.3 The recycling officer has stated that there is no objection to the village providing a hard standing surrounding the bins, although there is no budget available from SKDC. She said that if we needed the bins moving temporarily, for the work to go ahead, we should inform her.
- 8.4 Allington is now on a fortnightly collection rota, every other Wednesday. (The Wednesday following the green box collection).

9 Quality Council Status

- 9.1 There was a discussion about whether the Parish Council should go for 'Quality Council Status'. The Quality Council scheme has been introduced to raise the status of local council and is also being used by Government to ascertain whether town and parish councils should receive public funding.
- 9.2 This status, however, would mean that the Clerk would have to get the new national qualification for Town and Parish Council clerks. The qualification is mandatory for any Council seeking the new government Quality Council accreditation, without a qualified clerk they cannot apply for Quality Status. The clerk stated that she would be prepared to work toward gaining the qualification. LALC should be informed that the Council are looking to head toward the quality status in the next year. **(Action point: clerk)**

10 Village web-site

- 10.1 The clerk reported that she had had a call from an organisation called "The Local Channel" who had stated that the Parish Council had adopted a space for a web-site in May 04. If the Council chose to pursue this idea there would be:
- No cost to Parish
 - No annual licence fees
 - No annual support charges

The Parish Council could use the site to give information, publish agendas for meetings, publish minutes etc. Other pages could be created for other organisations within the village, if they so wished.

- 10.2 Councillors were happy with the idea of a village web-site in principle. More information would be sought by the clerk about 'The Local Channel' for the next Council meeting. **(Action point: clerk)**

11 Annual Parish meeting planned for 13 April 05

- 11.7 Letters of invitation have been sent to 23 different groups and societies around Allington. 11 have replied so far, 10 of them shall be represented at the annual meeting.

- 11.8 It was proposed that wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee be served at the meeting. The agenda would include the annual report and suggestions for donations. **(Action point: HT, clerk)**

12 Planning matters

- 12.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish council meeting on 12 January 2005:

- a) Permission refused to alter garage roof – The Old Walled Garden, Bottesford Road;
- b) Permission granted for timber office in front garden – Gembira, Burtons Lane;
- c) Permission granted for an extension - 13 Park Road;
- d) Application for a two storey extension to front of house – Old Manor Lodge, Bottesford Road;
- e) Application erection of a dwelling at 'The Gables', Side Street;
- f) New application to raise garage roof at the Old Walled Garden, Bottesford Road;
- g) Refusal appeal dismissed 'Vine Cottage'.

- 12.2 The Council were informed that a neighbour had raised an objection with SKDC regarding the extension at 13 Park Road.

- 12.3 After a discussion, it was resolved that the Planning Committee would hold its meetings in public and that notices of committee meetings would be posted, with at least 3 clear days notice, on the Parish Council notice board. Member of the public could observe the meeting, but would not be entitled to make comments to influence councillors.

13 Financial matters

- 13.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 12 January 2005.

- 13.2 Payments were presented for approval:

- a) £18.00 to LALC for new clerk's training day
- b) £323.12 to SKDC for the new Foston Road lamppost
- c) £160.51 to LALC for annual subscription

- 13.3 It was proposed that the clerk should look at changing the bank account from HSBC to one that enables transactions to be made at the Post Office. This would not only be more convenient than travelling into Grantham each time, but it would support the village Post Office. **(Action point: clerk)**

14 Report form the Playing Field Committee.

- 14.1 Cllr Sewell reported back from the Playing Field Committee meeting on Monday 7th March. Minutes on file.

14.2 The verges at the playing field are in a bad way. Gonerby Youth Football Club shall be asked to use the car park and try to avoid parking on and damaging the verges. **(Action point: MS)**

15 Any other business

15.1 The Allington Twinning Association has asked that the Parish Council consider getting the Allington Village signs to recognise that the village is twinned with Tuffe. This point shall be included on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. **(Action point: clerk)**

16 Date of next meeting

16.1 The Annual Parish meeting will be held in the village hall on Wednesday 13th April 2005.

16.1 The Parish Council AGM will be on Wednesday 11th May.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Signed: ----- (Chairman)

Date: _____