

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 14 March 2012

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

Also present: District Councillor Kaberry-Brown
 Theresa Tanner – Chairman VHMC

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 no points were raised:

2. **Apologies**

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Cllrs Cant and Hubbard. Both were away.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 Cllr Cragg declared an interest in the planning application for the wind turbine on Wade's farm as he is employed there.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2012**

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

5 **Correspondence received since the meeting held on 11 January 12**

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

- a) Letter from History Society giving feedback on PoW information
- b) Letter and reply from Mr & Mrs Ebsworth re: garden restructuring
- c) Community Lincs BKV competition entry 2012
- d) Fields in Trust re: annual membership
- e) Fields in Trust and Asda folder 'Having a field day'

- 5.2 Regarding (c), it was agreed that an article should be put into Allington News to ensure that villagers are aware of the competition and encourage their participation in making the village look attractive. The judging will take place in Allington in September. **(Action point: clerk)**

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

6 Structure of meetings, specifically AOB

6.1 Cllr Taylor suggested that future agendas should have an item which allows councillors to raise comments from villagers that have been brought to their attention in the week prior to the meetings, after the agenda has been set. Cllrs thought that this was a good idea and future agendas will have such an item listed fairly early on the agenda. Depending on the nature of the business raised, the issue would not necessarily be discussed at that meeting but, at least, all councillors would be aware of the comments. **(Action point: clerk)**

7 Village Hall management

7.1 Cllr Taylor raised her concerns that at the Village Hall Management Committee's AGM due in May, the Chairman and Treasurer will both be standing down and there did not appear to be any volunteers willing to fulfil the roles. Mrs Tanner spoke further about the matter. She said that the Assistant Treasurer was happy to remain in post and there was a Caretaker, so the day to day running of the hall was okay, but the management roles of Chairman and Treasurer needed filling.

7.2 The Parish Council considered different ways to help solve the problem and it was decided that the matter could be aired at the Annual Parish Meeting next month when, hopefully, a number of villagers would be in attendance. Mrs Tanner would appeal to those in attendance to see whether some willing volunteers would step forward.

8 Village paddock

8.1 Since the last Parish Council meeting the paddock next to the Manor House had been put on the market for £75k. The adjoining property The Old Barn, Main Street was also for sale at £125k. The clerk reported that she had spoken to the agent and had expressed the Parish Council's interest in purchasing the paddock.

8.2 It was decided unanimously that the paddock was a very important feature of the village and every effort should be made to retain it as such. The clerk reported that she had made enquiries with LALC and the Parish Council was eligible to make such a purchase providing that it could provide evidence of a consultation on the matter with villagers, with the majority of residents in support.

8.3 After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the clerk would obtain more information on the matter, ie:

- the sales details from the agent, Brown & Co.
- a second opinion from another agent about the value of the plot
- how, and from whom, the Parish Council could take out a loan
- how much realistically the Parish Council could afford
- an opinion from SKDC planning officers about the likelihood that planning permission would be allowed on the plot

8.4 The clerk would address these points and inform Cllrs as soon as possible. Only then can an informed decision be made. **(Action point: clerk)**

9 Signposts for village amenities

9.1 The clerk reported that she had made enquiries with LCC Highways about the village getting a 'fingerpost' sign at the corner of Bottom Street and Main Road giving general directions to village amenities like the playing field, church, village hall, pub and shop. LCC officials would be in touch.

10 Dog litter bin

10.1 Cllr Taylor said that she had been asked again about the village installing another dog waste bin. The clerk referred councillors to the discussion on this matter at the Parish Council meeting in September 2010. At the time an official from SKDC had stated that there was no specific guidance as to where dog waste bins can be placed but any new bins would have to be emptied and collected by a private company, and not SKDC, as dog waste is now considered a 'hazardous waste' and SKDC employees are not contracted to deal with that. This would inevitably be a cost to the village.

10.2 It was concluded that the onus of clearing up after dogs was with their owners and provided that the mess was suitably bagged then it can go in householders domestic 'black bin' waste.

11 School Safety Zone

11.1 The clerk reported that she had asked for an update on the school safety zone from LCC officials. Apparently they await confirmation that the county council budget for the new financial year, starting April 2012, will include provision for this zone. Then a time will be identified for the completion of the consultation process with residents, parents and other interested parties. Official were unable to say when this may happen.

12 Annual Parish meeting

12.1 The Annual Parish meeting will be on Wednesday 11th April at 7.30pm in the Village hall. It was decided that the presentations this year would be:

- The Neighbourhood Watch scheme
- The Diamond Jubilee celebrations weekend
- Village Hall management

12.2 Cllrs Hubbard and Taylor would arrange the refreshments again this year. **(Action point: AH & HT)**

13 Playing field matters

- 13.1 Cllr Taylor stated that the Playing Field Committee had met recently.
- 13.2 A quote had been accepted for the repairs and renovation of the portacabins and the work would commence soon.
- 13.3 Some more turf had been taken from the playing field. Who was taking turf remained a mystery. Gonerby Football club said that it was not them.
- 13.4 The Hempsteads would be asked whether they would look again at the rabbit holes on the pitch nearest to the car park. The football club had said that this was still not in a good state and have had to rearrange some of their girls' matches. The clerk would contact Hempsteads. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 13.5 Cllr Jackson was asked whether he would contact the contractor to cut the hedge around the playing field before the birds start nesting. **(Action point: GJ)**
- 13.6 Cllr Cragg said that he would investigate the drain problem at the toilet block. Any blockage needs attention before the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June. **(Action point: DC & GJ)**
- 13.7 Cllr Bosworth spoke about the play area. He said that he had invited three companies to look at the play area and he was awaiting their suggestions and advice for development / upgrading. The costs for any development would also be advised.

14 Planning matters

- 14.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 11 January 2012:
- a) Application & withdrawal and subsequent application – Pasture Farm, Gonerby Lane – wind turbine
 - b) Approval – 4 Peach Lane, double garage to serve two homes
 - c) Application & approval – 1 Bottom Street, new vehicle access
 - d) Application – Plum tree house, The Green, replacement of 3 windows
 - e) Application – Ashes Farm, Side Street, removal of Ash Tree
 - f) Application – School House, Marston Lane, pruning of Ash and Blackthorn and removal of a Blackthorn tree

15 Financial matters

- 15.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 11 January 2012:

Income

- Bank interest - £1.62
- LIVES donation - £50.00

Total £ 51.62

Expenditure

- Disco Party in the Park - £100.00
- Hempstead (MUGA maintenance & St James gate) - £630.60
- British Gas (electricity) - £20.93
- Playing field caretaker expenses - £30.39
- LALC - £253.10
- E-on (Christmas lights) - £6.41

Total £ 1041.43

Plus Clerk and Caretakers' salaries.

15.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

16 Cllr Taylor questioned whether the clerk had had a wage rise in recent years. The clerk said that she had been on the maximum 'spine point' for a part-time clerk as determined by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services since April 2010. Cllrs agreed to consider a bonus payment for the clerk. **(Action point: all cllrs)**

17 Any other business for future meetings

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

- a) The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee celebration weekend
- b) Sign posts for village amenities
- c) The play area upgrade

18 Date of next meeting

18.1 The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday 11 April at 7.30pm.

18.2 The Parish Council's AGM will be on Wednesday 9 May at 7.30pm.

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