

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council's Annual Meeting held in the Village Hall
Wednesday 13 May 2015

Present: Councillor Jackson Councillor Ashby
 Councillor Sharp Councillor Bosworth
 Councillor Cant Councillor Plummer
 Councillor Carter Sharon Milne (clerk)

Also present: 3 villagers

Prior to the start of the meeting the Cllr Jackson thanked villagers for attending and asked whether there was anything specific that they wished to raise.

One villager spoke about the poor state of Sewstern Lane / Green Lane as it was extremely rutted due to the number of 4x4 vehicles and motorbikes using it. A number of motorcyclists were using their bikes irresponsibly potentially endangering other users. Councillors acknowledged this was a problem as motor vehicles are prohibited from the lane but the Parish Council had no powers to stop this occurring. Villagers were advised to call the police in these instances.

1. **Election of Chairman**

- 1.1 Cllr Jackson was nominated by Cllr Sharp and seconded by Cllr Plummer to act as Chairman for the forthcoming year. There were no other nominations. Cllr Jackson will therefore be the Chairman for the year 2015/16.

2. **Election of Vice Chairman**

- 2.1 Cllr Bosworth was nominated by Cllr Cant and seconded by Cllr Sharp to act as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. There were no other nominations. Cllr Bosworth will therefore be the Vice Chairman for the year 2015/16.

3. **Chairman's remarks**

- 3.1 The Chairman welcomed all Councillors to the first meeting following the election. He congratulated all Councillors for being voted onto the Council. It was good that Allington had a contested election unlike a number of other Parishes.

4. **Apologies**

- 4.1 All Parish Councillors were present. There were no other apologies.

5 Declarations of Interest

- 5.1 Cllrs Bosworth and Jackson declared an interest in any discussion that may occur regarding the planning application S15/0862 – the Sewstern Lane Windfarm.
- 5.2 Cllr Ashby declared an interest in any discussion that may occur regarding the planning application on her property Wayside, Main Street.

6 Appointment of other offices and committees

- 6.1 After discussion it was agreed that councillors would be appointed to the following advisory groups: Cllrs Bosworth, Cant and Ashby would sit on the Planning Consultation Advisory Group and Cllrs Jackson, Sharp, Plummer and Carter would sit on the Playing Field Advisory Group.
- 6.2 Cllr Bosworth would chair the Planning Consultation Advisory Group and Cllr Carter would chair the Playing Field Advisory Group.

7 Dates of Parish Council meetings for the ensuing year

- 7.1 The Council will meet on the following dates:

Wednesday 8 July 15
Wednesday 9 September 15
Wednesday 11 November 15
Wednesday 13 January 16
Wednesday 9 March 16
Wednesday 11 May 16

- 7.2 The date for the next Annual Parish meeting is Wednesday 13 April 2016.

8 Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

- 8.1 Councillors reviewed and unanimously agreed the present Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

9 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 March 2015

- 9.1 The minutes were confirmed as a true record by those Councillors that were in attendance at the meeting on 11 March. They were signed by the Chairman.

10 Annual Parish Meeting feedback

- 10.1 The Annual Parish Meeting held in April went well and the feedback was positive. At the meeting Dr Lawrenson had spoken warmly about her time as a GP in the village and this had been well received by everyone. A good number

of village groups and societies were present and they all gave reports on their year.

11 Grants for the year 2015/16

11.1 The following grants were agreed unanimously:

- a) £2000 to the Village Hall Management Committee to help keep letting fees low, with a further £3000 ringfenced in the Parish accounts for specific capital projects.
- b) £25 to the Village shop to help with the upkeep of the shop's notice board.

12 Donations for the year 2015/16

12.1 The following donations, payable under LGA s137, were proposed and agreed unanimously:

- a) £50 – Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance,
- b) £50 – to the village Church
- c) £50 – to Allington News

13 Correspondence received since the meeting held on 11 March 15

13.1 The Council has sent and received correspondence on the following:

- a) Election material
- b) Came & Company insurance renewal
- c) Audit return - Grant Thornton

It was agreed that correspondence which invariably comes by email will be circulated by the clerk between meetings rather than circulated in the box. Using email negates the use of the correspondence box.

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

14.1 There were no representations to Councillors since the agenda had been set.

15 Village Hall matters

15.1 The Village Hall Management Committee had recently had its AGM. Theresa Tanner had stepped down from the role as Chairman but she would continue to take bookings. Cathy Green now has the role of Chairman, Julie Scott is the new Treasurer and Cliff Wilkins the Secretary.

15.2 Cllr Jackson confirmed that the Village Hall's constitution now states that the person who has the position of Parish Council Chairman is, by default, a Trustee of the village hall. Accordingly, the Chairman would attend quarterly VHMC meetings.

15.3 At the recent AGM the Management Committee, attended by Cllr Jackson, the Committee stated that it was grateful to the Parish Council for its increased contribution of funds. The Village Hall, however, would continue to raise funds throughout the year and it was pleased to state that it had raised around £500 at its Magical Dinner Night earlier in the month.

16 Village Cross

16.1 Cllr Bosworth explained, for the benefit of new Councillors, that the village cross, which is an English Heritage scheduled monument, was in a poor state and without restoration it would be lost. In the past year a survey had been undertaken by Skillington Workshop and permission had been sought for work to be carried out on it.

16.2 English Heritage has now given permission for work to be undertaken. Work must start within the next 5 years. The next step is to find out about funding that may be available for this. Cllr Bosworth would continue to look at the matter and see what funding may be available

17 Playing field matters

17.1 Cllr Jackson reported on the Playing field. In recent months the Playing Field fundraising group had organised the annual Easter event and a Film Quiz night. Both had proved successful. On 4 July there would be the Lark in the Park event with 'Badness' a Madness tribute band and 'Partybeat', on the following day, 5 July, there will be a car show on the field.

17.2 Cllr Jackson reported that the recently purchased snowdrops had been planted in the Community Wood and the fencing would be installed very soon. When clearing the wood some broken glass had been found as well as a length of wire. These items had been removed. There is a need for people to be vigilant and remove dangerous items when seen, as these could cause injury. Cllr Carter will arrange a meeting shortly to look at how the wood should be managed. **(Action point: SC)**

17.3 The Playing Field Advisory Group would also look at where the QEII Field in Trust plaque needs to be installed. **(Action point: SC)**

17.4 The next scheduled Playing Field Advisory Group meeting will be on 6 July at 8pm, prior to the Parish Council meeting. **(Action point: SC, GJ, MS, JP)**

18 Planning matters

18.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish council meeting on 11 March 2015:

- Application and approval – 66 Park Road, fell sycamore
- Application and approval – Chestnut Farm, Bottom Street, fell 16 conifers, 2 laburnum, 1 laurel

- Application and approval – St James Bungalow, Side Street, erect boundary wall and fence
- Application – Dower House, replace conservatory
- Application – Big60million – 11 ha solar farm south of Gonerby Lane
- Application – Wayside, Side Street, demolish existing garage and replace with storage above
- Application – Whirlwind Renewables, 6 wind turbines with a maximum tip of 110m and associated site access tracks, crane pads, electrical control building and temporary construction compound

18.2 Regarding the Windfarm application a formal response needs to be forwarded to SKDC. There was some doubt as to whether this matter could be discussed by all Councillors as some felt that this issue could be deemed as a pecuniary interest. The clerk would take advice from LALC and inform Councillors. Once this advice has been received a meeting of the Planning Advisory Group would be arranged. **(Action point: clerk)**

18.3 It was noted that in the recent Conservative Party’s manifesto pledge states:

“We will halt the spread of onshore windfarms. Onshore wind now makes a meaningful contribution to our energy mix and has been part of the necessary increase in renewable capacity. Onshore windfarms often fail to win public support, however, and are unable by themselves to provide the firm capacity that a stable energy system requires. **As a result, we will end any new public subsidy for them and change the law so that local people have the final say on windfarm applications**”.

It was agreed that the clerk would write to Stephen Phillips MP to inform him of the application.

19 Financial matters

21.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 11 March 15:

Income

- Precept - £18,000
- Caretaker’s grant - £338
- Bank interest - £2.13
- PFC event profit - £983.20

Total £ 19,323.33

Expenditure

- Mudford’s Marquees - £390.00
- Community Wood fencing - £426.19
- HMRC - £139.40
- Hempsteads - £445.99
- PFC Film quiz float - £800.00
- Opus Energy - £35.85
- CPRE – BKV entry - £15.00

- APM expenses - £24.65

Total £ 2277.08

All payments were retrospectively approved unanimously.

- 21.2 The clerk presented the Statement of Accounts to the Council for the year 2014/15. The accounts were approved for submission to the external auditors subject to an internal audit first. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 21.3 The clerk asked for authority to pay by BACS, and record in the accounts her and the village caretakers' salaries throughout the year as necessary. This was agreed unanimously. Authority to continue to pay other bills by BACS and the electricity bill for the Playing Field by direct debit was also agreed.
- 21.4 The bank mandate was reviewed. The authorised signatories will remain as Cllrs Bosworth and Cant. Cllr Plummer will be added to the mandate. **(Action point: clerk & JP)**
- 21.5 Cllrs agreed to renew the annual insurance from Aviva. This year's premium is £785.17. The clerk will renew accordingly. **(Action point: clerk)**

22 Any other business for future meetings

22.2 These items would be put on the agenda for the July meeting:

- a) Village Hall matters
- b) The village cross
- c) Financial Regulations review
- d) Windfarm application, Sewstern Lane

23 Date of next meeting

23.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 8 July 15 at 7.30pm.

Signed: ----- (Chairman)

Date: _____